

Environmental Action UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter about the McClellan AFB Environmental Activities - California

July 1997

A Progress Report on Base Cleanup

Progress continues to be made in the base's cleanup program. Special efforts are being made to ensure cleanup activities will not hinder base reuse, anticipated to occur as early as 1998.

Highlights in the last 18 months include:


- Initiation or completion of a number of remedial investigations;
- Installation of soil vapor extraction systems; and
- Expansion of the groundwater treatment systems.

Remedial investigations (RIs) are field studies that locate and identify contamination. To date, RIs have been completed for sites in Operable Units (OUs) B, B1, C1, and D, and the groundwater OU. RI field work for OU A sites is complete, and a final report of the results is expected by the end of the year.

A second phase of RI field work for select sites in OU C will begin in late summer. Field work for the Phase I RI in OUs E H has begun and will run through the end of the summer (see the April 1997 *Environmental Action Update* for more details).



The installation of soil vapor extraction (SVE) systems at eight areas has dramatically increased the amount of contamination removed from the soil. From January to June 1997, over 36,000 pounds of contamination were removed by SVE. The SVE system literally vacuums the contaminated gases from the spaces between soil particles in the area between the ground surface and the water table. Using SVE to remove contaminants (mostly solvents) from soil is much more cost effective than removing these

contaminants from groundwater. SVE systems were installed most recently at Investigation Cluster (IC) 31 in OU A and at IC 19 in OU C.

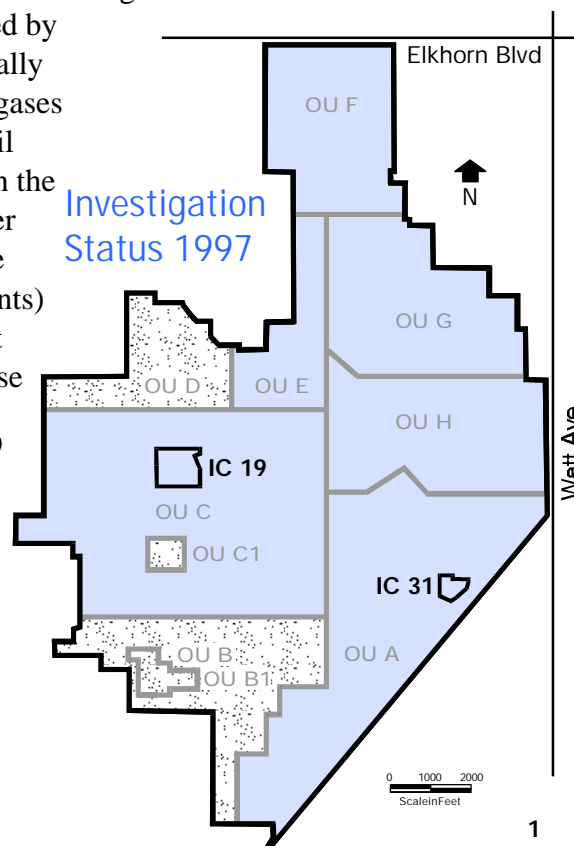
Groundwater cleanup on base has expanded as well. Seven additional extraction wells installed in OU A began operation in 1996. This brings the total number of extraction wells on base to 30. By June 1997, the extraction system had removed an estimated 51,000 pounds of contaminants from the groundwater. 

McClellan was divided into 10 geographical operable units (OUs) to help manage investigations. An eleventh OU—the groundwater OU—includes all the groundwater beneath the base.

Legend

-  Investigation Complete
-  Investigation Underway

Investigation Status 1997



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RAB Election Results

The McClellan Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a forum for the exchange of information between the community, regulatory agencies, and base personnel. The McClellan RAB meets on a quarterly basis (the next RAB meeting is July 23), and the RAB committees may meet more frequently.

At the April 1997 meeting, the RAB re-elected Chuck Yarbrough to serve a third term as RAB Committee Co-Chair. (The Air Force Co-Chair is Elaine Anderson). Also announced in April were the newly elected or re-elected chairs of the RAB's four committees:

- Base Reuse, chaired by Del Callaway;
- Community Relations, chaired by Sheila Guerra;
- Relative Risk Ranking, chaired by Dennis Green; and
- Technical Reports Review, chaired by John Leuthe.

The public is invited to attend the meetings of both the full RAB and the RAB committees. See Page 4 for upcoming meeting dates. 

McClellan received an honorable mention for the Creek Week junk sculpture entitled "Sid's Backyard" shown with some of the volunteers who helped clean up the creeks on base during Creek Week in April. The sculpture was made with items collected from the creeks. A big round of applause and "thanks" to all of the volunteers!




EM Tests New Technologies

The Environmental Management Directorate's Innovative Technology Demonstration Program has recently completed demonstrations of two innovative technologies for air pollution control. Both technologies use a special catalyst, titanium dioxide, and ultraviolet light to produce the reactions that destroy the most common air pollutants from soil vapor extraction systems. Titanium dioxide is a common, non-toxic mineral widely used in sunscreens.

The Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program funded McClellan AFB to test the first system, the Matrix Photocatalytic system. This system uses UV lamps to start the reaction. The other system, developed and tested by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, uses sunlight. Both systems were effective, destroying 95% of the air pollutants passed through them.

McClellan AFB, a National Environmental Technology Test Site, will be evaluating three additional technologies in the coming months. The first is a technology that recovers solvents

from soil vapor extraction systems for reuse or recycling. The second uses biological processes to treat contaminated water removed as part of the cleanup program. The third removes contaminants from the groundwater within a specially designed well that does not require the water to be pumped to the surface for treatment. 



The *Environmental Action Update* is a publication of the Environmental Public Affairs Office at McClellan AFB, California, designed to keep the public informed of environmental activities at the base. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, please write to SM-ALC/PAE, 5050 Dudley Blvd., Suite 3, McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1389 or phone (916) 643-1742, ext. 354.

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Environmental Action
UPDATE

April 1997

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JULY 97, CDR LCT 07.01, BT SAC



More and more organizations are using the World Wide Web as a means of communicating.

Here are some web sites you may be interested in:

McClellan AFB - <http://www.mcclellan.af.mil>

U.S. EPA - <http://www.epa.gov>

California EPA - <http://www.cal.epa.ca.gov>

California State Water Resources Control Board - <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>

And our newsletters are now on the Web!

Go to - <http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/PA/em1a.htm> and click on Newsletter

Base Expecting New Standards for Treating Industrial Wastewater

McClellan is expecting a permit with new standards for treating industrial wastewater after an inspection by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While the base's sewer discharges have complied with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District permit requirements that were based on federal law, U.S. EPA found that the District's permit conditions for the base were incorrectly applied. The U.S. EPA also noted issues with the operation of the base's main treatment plant. The original District permit requirements did effectively protect the general public's health and the environment; however, U.S. EPA is requiring sampling changes and is also lowering the allowable discharge levels of some contaminants (e.g. cadmium).

It is anticipated that the District will issue a new permit with corrections by late summer, and the

base is working diligently to make sure it meets the new requirements. The Environmental Management (EM) Director created a special team to include members from EM, the legal office, and the base Civil Engineer Organization to identify and take all necessary corrective actions, and immediate changes were made at the main treatment plant. The U.S. EPA has requested the base monitor outputs for a year minimum to ensure the changes made by the base are effective.

U.S. EPA sent a report in April that outlined findings of a wastewater inspection conducted at the base in January, and McClellan responded back to them addressing the findings. An official Notice of Violation (NOV) and Request for Information was received in May, but there have been no monetary fines associated with the NOV.

We're updating our mailing list. If you have an address or name change, or you no longer wish to receive updates on the cleanup of McClellan AFB, please complete and cut out the coupon at right and mail to:

Margaret Gidding
Community Relations Coordinator
SM-ALC/PAE
5050 Dudley Blvd, Suite 3
McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1389

- ☐ Please add my name to the McClellan AFB mailing list.
- ☐ Please remove me from the mailing list.
- ☐ This is a new address and/or name change. Please update your records.

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank You!



Upcoming Meetings

RAB General Meeting

July 23, 1997

6-10 pm

See inside for agenda.

Vineland School Auditorium,
6450 20th Street, Rio Linda

RAB Relative Risk Committee Meeting

August 7, 1997

6-8 pm

269 D Conference Room

RAB Executive Meeting

September 4, 1997

6:30-8:30 pm

269 D Conference Room

RAB Community Relations Committee Meeting

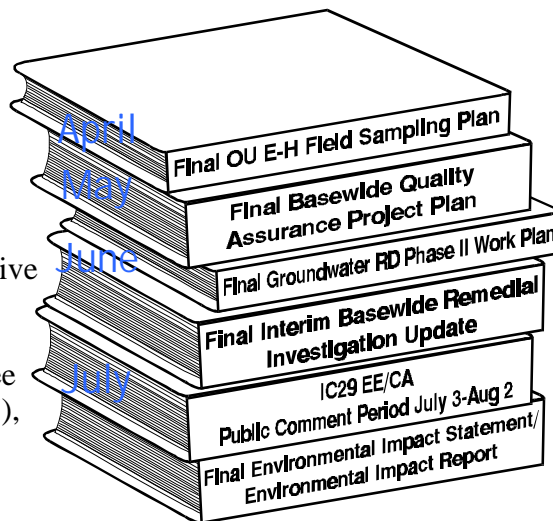
September 17, 1997

6-8 pm

269 D Conference Room

Recently Issued Documents

All are available at the Administrative Record at McClellan AFB. Call Danny Durkee at 643-1742 x 347), for details.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REMEDIAL SCOREBOARD

As of June 1st, 1997
Pounds of Contamination
Removed from Soil and Water:

550,000

Environmental Action

UPDATE

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION
about McClellan's Installation Restoration
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(800) 231-3075